

from Provisional Application 60/152,011, filed September 1, 1999.

Please amend the paragraph on page 23, line 25, through page 28, line 5 to read as follows.

As seen in Table V and Fig. 5, the most significant ANOVA results were detected at the  $\alpha 1$  Na,K-ATPase locus (D2mgh11) and at the D2mit14 marker, 2.2 centimorgans (cM) away, for SBP ( $P = 0.00268$ ), DBP ( $P = 0.00920$ ), MAP ( $P = 0.00376$ ). The fact that all three blood pressure measures provide similar results is in contrast to other F2 cosegregation studies that have detected cosegregation with one blood pressure parameter but not with the others, e.g., locus cosegregation with DBP and pulse pressure, but not with SBP or MAP (23). These results indicate that the  $\alpha 1$  Na,K-ATPase locus meets criterion 4.

#### Other Embodiments

All publications and patent applications mentioned in this specification are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each independent publication or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

While the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modifications and this application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention